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MEETING FOR BUSINESS, July 26, 1842.

Vice President Morton in the Chair.

After the reading of the Monthly Report of the Corrresponding Secretary, the following reports of committees were presented and adopted.

The Committee on the following paper by Mr. Haldeman, read July 5th, 1842, in favour of Publication in the Proceedings.

Description of two new species of Hydrachna and one of Daphnia. By S. S. Haldeman.

Hydr. *nebulosa*. Globular, mottled with brown; a large central sub-rectangular spot back of the eyes, which are apparently double upon each side, red and black; an orange spot in the centre of the back; legs very slender, first and second pair thinner than the third and fourth; palpi long, basal half cylindrical, extremity tapering. More globular than my Unionicola oviformis, with a nearly similar light Y shaped mark upon the back, and equalling this species in size. Hab. A little pond on the Susquehanna, above Columbia.

Hydr. *coccinea*. Subglobose, uniform bright scarlet, legs slender, covered with short bristles; palpi bristled, ante-penultimate articulation thickened. Length 4 millim. Hab. with the preceding. Differs from H. scabra, in being larger, and in wanting the long bristles to the legs. The posterior legs are not "destitute of cilia," wherein it differs from Limnochares extendens, Say.

Daphnia *reticulata*. Ovate, margins imbricated, surface divided by fine lines into minute rectangles; posterior half of the body with the dorsal and ventral portion approaching each other by similar curves, which meet in a long, slender, tapering caudal appendage. Closely resembles "Monocculus pulex." Jurine's Hist. des Monocles, Pl. 8. fig. 1. Length 1½ millim. Hab. with the preceding.

The Committee on Professor Locke's communication, read July 5th, 1842, on the Fossil Cryptolithus tesselatus, reported also in favour of publication in the Proceedings; viz:

So rarely do we meet with Fossils in such a state that we can unravel in any degree the structure beyond the mere external form, that I sit down while the subject is still new and exciting, to communicate to you what seems to me to be a discovery in relation to the Cryptolithus tessellatus. This fossil is so seldom found with anything more than the scuta and its ornamented margin, that some naturalists have doubted the existence of an "abdomen" and "tail," similar to the corresponding parts of other trilobites. In examining a stratum of clay-marl which constitutes, perhaps, a hundred feet in thickness of our horizontal strata, the fossils were found to be merely imbedded, without petrefaction, and easily separable from the fine, soft, earthy matter. In this condition, they exhibit a freshness and sharpness highly interesting to the student. Within the last week, Mr. James Foster, an amateur collector of our city, discovered in this marl several specimens of the above fossil, *with the body entire.* Soon after, Mr. Anthony and myself found other specimens of the same. The new facts disclosed by these specimens and by others found in this vicinity, are 1st. That the animal was furnished when entire, with very long spines or processes from the posterior angles of the shield. 2d. The abdomen is partly concealed, about five articulations, under the posterior half of the shield. 3d. The middle *lobe* of the shield is posteriorly mucronate. The first fact is fully exhibited in a specimen in Mr. Foster's cabinet; the second fact in a specimen of my own, in which the shield has separated from the body, disclosing the articulations beneath; the third fact in two specimens belonging to Mr. Foster. The middle lobe of the abdomen is about half the width of the lateral lobes, and shows only five or six articulations uncovered by the shield. The tail is very distinct from the abdomen, with about five obscure articulations. Mr. Anthony has a specimen, which by a fracture of the shield, discloses seven abdominal articulations, and the whole number is probably ten. It is evident, from this structure, that when the animal rolled itself in the manner of the trilobite family, the whole body would be concealed under the shield. The posterior part of the body is circumscribed by a well defined raised margin.

The associated fossils are Strophomena alternata, Atrypa testudinaria, Lingula ——, Orbicula, Isotelus megistos, Calymene senaria, Orthoceræ, Enchrinites and Corallines. Formation, "Blue limestone," Trenton Limestone of the N. Y. Geologists, or a formation above it.

The Committee, to whom was referred the communication of P. A. Browne, Esq., describing a "monstrous Rose," made a report, stating that the difference in the character of this paper from the usual one of those inserted in the Journal or Proceedings, and the necessity for the aid of a plate for its complete elucidation, rendered its publication, in its entire form, impracticable.

The following, however, being the concluding portion of the paper, containing some strictures on terms used in Vegetable Physiology, the Committee recommended for publication in the Proceedings.

It remains only to note, that when botanists inculcate the doctrine to which allusion has been made above,* they make use of *terms* that are illy adapted to convey their meaning. "A flower" they say, "is a *transformed* branch: all its organs being leaves, which have undergone a peculiar *metamorphosis*,"† by which we would understand that nature first formed a branch, and afterwards converted it progressively into a calyx, a corolla, stamens and pistils; whereas they do not intend to be understood that these parts ever existed as branches or leaves, but that their nature and origin are the same. And this being the case, why are the words "transformed," and " metamorphosed" used at all? Terms should never be used in science with different meanings from that in which they are generally understood, if it can possibly be avoided.

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* The present theory, of the flower being the product of successive whorls of leaves.

† Gray's Botany, p. 158.

It is the opinion of some eminent botanists, that the same vegetable matter which, called into action on the earth, with sufficient light, air, &c. produces a Lichen, will, in moisture on decaying organised substances become a Fungus; or if developed under water, exhibit the form of an Alga. But this has not been considered a sufficient warrant for the assertion, that one of these is transformed or is metamorphosed into the other.

This erroneous mode of expression is peculiarly conspicuous in regard to the present specimen, since it conveys the idea that the leaves were first transformed into calyx, corolla, stamens and pistils, and were afterwards by a retrograde movement metamorphosed back again into leaves; when in truth all we mean to assert is, that owing to the peculiar circumstances attending the developement of the flower, the vegetable matter which was called into action, never arrived at the stage of perfection required for these more perfect organs, and that therefore they *remained* leaves.

The Society then proceeded to an election for Correspondents of the Academy, with the following result.

CORRESPONDENTS.

Professor John A. Warder, of Cincinnati, Ohio.
John C. Warren, M. D., of Boston.
J. N. Nicollet, Esq. of Washington City.